

WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

WINDHAM TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

Tuesday, June 29, 2010 - 7:00 P.M.

Special Meeting



1. Call to Order

Mayor Eldridge called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Town Council members present: Crystal Donahue, Teresa Santucci, Lorraine McDevitt, Mike Lessard, Erika Haynes, Arnaldo Rivera, Ernest S. Eldridge, Kevin Donohue and David Howe Sr.

Town Council members excused: N. Joseph Marsalisi and Jerry Iazzetta

Town Manager Neal J. Beets and Town Attorney Richard Cody.

2. Citizens and Delegations

Lori Jeffers suggested to the Town Council to vote no because the Board of Education budget is not going to pass. She mentioned the opposition to the Magnet School and how we are not going to get the surrounding towns participate.

Teresa Santucci stated that the Town of Manchester shares so many services and she mentioned that she read on the paper that they are forming a committee to consolidate services. She suggests that the Town of Windham should do the same because we have duplicate services.

Leo Santucci stated that the Chief of Police deserves thanks for implementing the noise ordinance. He mentioned that it is working and thanked public works for the plant baskets on Main Street.

Dawn Niles, North Windham, is looking forward to the new recycling bins. She also mentioned that she was informed that the Windham Center Fire Department was not going to have garbage pick up and requested that the Town Council look into it.

Denise, 247 North Street, Willimantic, spoke regarding the Board of Education budget and mentioned that it was unfair to say that because of the Magnet School the budget is not passing.

Bernie suggested that the Town discuss with voters who didn't vote why they didn't vote. He was upset about committees not having quorums when they post meetings especially the Board of Finance.

Charles Kratt, Willimantic, stated that one of the reasons people voted the budget down was because the Board of Finance only cut \$1,000.00.

Mark Doyle stated that the Board of Education budget is on line in 5 different ways including a very detailed version. He stated that many times he has requested that they form the Tri-Board just like it was done when Walter Pawelkiewicz was in office.

3. Resolutions and Ordinances

a. Discussion and consider a resolution authorizing Board of Education expenditures in the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year

Haynes MOVED, Donohue seconded, to adopt resolution # 2506.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council THAT

A Resolution of the Town Council for Windham, Connecticut, Authorizing the Expenditure of Funds.

Whereas, the Voters have not approved the Board of Education budget before the commencement of fiscal year 2010 – 2011;

Whereas, Section X-7 of the Town Charter provides the Town Council with the authority, in this circumstance, to approve necessary expenditures as provided in the General Statutes;

Whereas, Section 7-405 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides the Town Council with the authority to approve such necessary expenditures for a period of 90 days commencing July 1, 2010;

Whereas, the Town has a strong need to expend funds for employees, programs, education, contract obligations, debt service payments, public building maintenance, equipment, utilities, insurance, environmental control systems, care of public resources such as streets and parks, and garbage collection;

Whereas, the Town's disbursing officers may expend funds legally upon approval by the Town Council of such expenditures;

Now, therefore, the Town Council adopts the following resolutions:

1. The Town's disbursing officers are hereby authorized to expend funds as necessary, for a period of time up to and including September 30, 2010, but to expend no more than \$3,204,081 within General Government line items; and to expend no more than an aggregate of \$10,312,748 for the Board of Education, prior to September 30, 2010;

2. Expenditures under this resolution shall be measured by the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools to be kept to amounts which would aggregate, should an annual budget not be adopted this fiscal year, to no more than the expenditures approved under the Board of Education annual budget for fiscal year 2009 – 2010; except that expenditures shall be made to be consistent with and meet statutory obligations.
3. The Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools shall prepare a report on the disbursements authorized by these resolutions for the Town Council and the Board of Education on a monthly basis.
4. This authorization shall expire, automatically, upon the date the Voters approve an annual budget for the Board of Education for fiscal year 2010 – 2011.
5. Should an annual budget not be approved by September 15, 2010, the Town Manager shall obtain from the Town Council further authorization to expend funds for the period of October 1, 2010 forward.

MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Lessard who abstained.

4. New Business

- a. **Discussion and consider a recommendation from the Town Council Public Safety, Recreation and Public Works Sub Committee to award the alterations and additions to the Windham Public Works Garage to Mattern Construction in the amount of \$222,300.00.**

McDevitt MOVED, Rivera seconded, to award the alterations and additions to the Windham Public Works Garage to Mattern Construction in the amount of \$222,300.00. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Citizens and Delegations

Barbara McGrath questioned the Council if the Town was allowed to use the equipment to call the residents and letting them know to go out and vote. She mentioned that they are looking into an exit poll for the next referendum but it is illegal to keep the budget at current funding level.

Leo Santucci stated that he has an issue with transparency in regards to putting the Board of Education budget on line.

Dawn Niles mentioned that Code Red was for public safety issues and concerns and doesn't know if we can use it to inform the residents about the budget referendum.

Mark Doyle mentioned that the Board of Education used its current phone system to inform the parents of the upcoming budget referendum.

Lori Jeffers stated that the Town Council should allow a revote on the Magnet School.

Bernie spoke regarding the school resource officer and the need of one in our schools. He stated that people spoke in favor of one and know it will be the first thing it gets cut out of the budget.

7. Adjournment

Donohue MOVED, Donahue seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.